

Great BC ShakeOut - January 26

On January 26 at 10 am, thousands of British Columbians will *Drop, Cover and Hold On* in the Great British Columbia Shakeout, the largest earthquake drill in Canadian history. Intended to create public awareness of earthquake hazards and encourage personal preparedness, participants will *Drop, Cover and Hold On* for two minutes in response to a simulated earthquake event.

BC is located in a seismically active region where a few thousand earthquakes occur each year in and adjacent to the province. The threat of a major earthquake in the province is real; therefore, we must ensure we all know how to be prepared. The drill is modeled after the successful Great California ShakeOut, now in its third year. The January 26 date marks the 311th anniversary of the last magnitude 9 earthquake in BC.

At this time, more than 210,000 participants are registered in BC with 83,000 registered on Vancouver Island. The BC Shakeout website at <http://shakeoutbc.ca> has a wealth of information about how you can participate and most importantly, how to perform the *Drop, Cover and Hold On* - a quake-safe action designed to protect people from objects that can become projectiles during ground shaking.



Once registered, participation can be as simple as three easy steps:

1. *Drop, Cover and Hold On*: Drop to the ground, take cover under a table or desk, and hold on to it as if a major earthquake were happening (stay down for at least 60 seconds). Practice now so that you will immediately protect yourself during an earthquake.
2. While still under the table, or wherever you are, look around and imagine what would happen in a major earthquake. What would fall on you or on others? What would be damaged? What would life be like after?
3. Finally, you can practice what you will do after the shaking stops.

Also provided on the website is a life safety drill designed to engage people to think through their own emergency response actions during the drill, then afterwards to review and discuss what worked or what did not, in order to make improvements for the next drill or an actual earthquake. The website also provides information on participating in the exercise at your workplace.

The City of Parksville encourages residents and businesses to register at <http://shakeoutbc.ca> to be counted in the drill and to receive further information.

How to participate:

Here are simple things individuals and families can do to participate in the ShakeOut. Instructions and resources can be found at www.shakeoutbc.ca.

Plan Your Drill:

- Register at www.shakeoutbc.ca to be counted in the ShakeOut Drill, get email updates, and more.
- Have a *Drop, Cover, and Hold On* drill at 10 am on January 26, 2011.
- Discuss what you learned and make improvements.

Get Prepared for Earthquakes:

- Do a "hazard hunt" for items that might fall during earthquakes and secure them.
- Create a personal or family disaster plan. For more information, please visit <http://www.getprepared.gc.ca/index-eng.aspx>
- Organize or refresh your emergency supply kits. After an earthquake you may need to remain in place for at least 72 hours or up to a week, so ensure you have the necessary supplies.
- Identify and correct any issues in your home's structure.
- Other actions are at www.shakeoutbc.ca

Share the ShakeOut:

- Invite everyone who matters to you to register.
- Have a neighbourhood party to discuss preparedness, and register for the ShakeOut.
- Encourage your community, employer, or other groups you are involved with to participate.
- Share your experience at www.shakeoutbc.ca.

For more information, please contact the City's emergency program coordinator, Aaron Dawson.

For more information:

Aaron Dawson, Emergency Program Coordinator

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